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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/070,878	RIVERÓN ROJAS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jeffrey T. Barton	1753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 30 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 117-142.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☒ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|---|

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Oath/Declaration

1. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:
The specification to which the oath or declaration is directed has not been adequately identified. See MPEP § 602.

The oath filed on 19 August 2002 mistakenly refers to Application Serial No. 10/018738, not the instant Application Serial No. 10/070,878. The referenced filing date (17 December 2001) is also incorrect.

2. Applicant is now required to submit a substitute declaration or oath to correct the deficiencies set forth above. The substitute oath or declaration must be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability" (PTO-37). Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136. Failure to timely file the substitute declaration (or oath) will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application. The transmittal letter accompanying the declaration (or oath) should indicate the date of the "Notice of Allowance" (PTOL-85) and the application number in the upper right hand corner.

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

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by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Marvin Feldman on 15 September 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

- a. In claim 117 at line 5, please delete the word "their" and insert the word --the-- before the word "electrodes".
- b. In claim 117 at line 6, please delete the word "transversally" after the word "crossing".
- c. In claim 117 at line 6, please insert the word --transversely-- after the words "the gel".
- d. In claim 117 at line 9, please delete the word "various" and insert the word --more-- before the word "minigels".
- e. In claim 117 at line 13, please insert the word --said-- before the words "pairs of electrodes".
- f. In claim 117 at line 13, please insert the word --the-- after the words "separated in".
- g. In claim 117 at line 15, please delete the word "separation" and insert the word --distance-- before the words "in conjunction".
- h. In claim 117 at line 28, please delete the words "being formed by" and insert the word --comprising-- before the words "removable sheets".

- i. In claim 118 at line 2, please insert the word --a-- before the word "frontal".
- j. In claim 118 at line 2, please delete the comma and insert the words --and has a length ('L') of-- after the words "TAFE chamber".
- k. In claim 118 at line 3, please delete the words "in length ('L'), and its length" and insert the words --, wherein L-- before the words "is equal to".
- l. In claim 120 at line 2, please insert the word --and-- after the word "width".
- m. In claim 120 at line 3, please insert the words --in cm-- after the word "width".
- n. In claim 121 at lines 1-2, please delete the phrase ", or separation between opposite polarity electrodes," after the words "said distance 'd'".
- o. In claim 121 at line 4, please insert the word --a-- before the words "chamber lateral wall".
- p. In claim 122 at line 2, please delete the word "in" and insert the word --into-- after the word "subdivided".
- q. In claim 124 at line 3, please delete the phrase ", and widthwise said TAFE chambers" at the end of the claim.
- r. In claim 125 at line 2, please add the word --a-- before the word "fixed".
- s. In claim 128 at line 3, please delete the words "of electrode array" after the word "platforms".
- t. In claim 128 at line 8, please delete the word "so," and insert the words --such that-- before the words "said TAFE chamber".
- u. In claim 128 at line 9, please delete the word "at" and insert the words

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--exposed to-- after the words "mini-platforms are".

v. In claim 129 at line 2, please add the words --being disposed-- after the words "electrode array".

w. In claim 130 at line 4, please delete the words "cathode and anode" and insert the words --one of said cathodes and one of said anodes-- before the word "located".

x. In claim 133 at line 1, please insert the status identifier --(New)-- after the claim number.

y. In claim 134 at line 4, please delete the words "third inferior part" and insert the words --lower third-- after the words "horizontal slot in its".

z. In claim 137 at lines 4-5, please delete the phrase ", wherein 'a' and 'th' are width and thickness of said minigel, respectively".

aa. In claim 140 at line 4, please delete the word "marker" and insert the word --maker-- after the words "each sample plug".

ab. In claim 140 at line 9, please delete the word "or" and insert the words --which is a-- before the word "cover".

ac. In claim 141 at line 2, please delete the word "strengths" and insert the word --strength-- after the words "electric field".

ad. In claim 141 at line 3, please delete the word "provided" and insert the words --and contains-- after the words "300 watt,".

ae. In claim 141 at line 4, please delete the words "is used and" before the word "maintained".

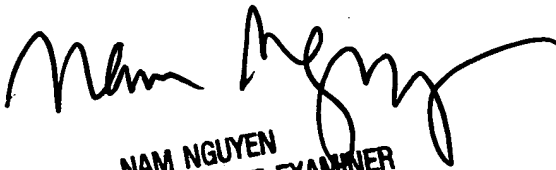
- af. In claim 142 at lines 3-4, please delete the phrase "depending on the number of UEZs used, provided" and insert --, and contains-- after the phrase "from 8 to 25 V/cm".
 - ag. In claim 142 at line 4, please delete the words "is used and" before the word "maintained".
 - ah. Please cancel claims 143-150.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
- The primary reason for allowance is that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the claimed "blocks of material of high dielectric constant occluding zones of said TAFE chambers" or "removable sheets that avoid turbulences of buffer circulated at high flow velocity". No motivation could be found for modification of prior art TAFE systems to include such features.
- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Jeffrey T. Barton whose telephone number is (571) 272-1307. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM - 5:30PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JTB
15 September 2006


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